UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/1991/51
8 April 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

First regular session of 1991
Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda*

CARTOGRAPHY

Twelfth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific

Report of the Secretary-General

1. At its 17th plenary meeting, on 28 May 1987, the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1987/136, took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the Eleventh United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific (E/1987/39 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1), endorsed the recommendation made by the Conference to convene the Twelfth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific in 1991, and requested the Secretary-General to take measures, where appropriate, to implement the other recommendations made by the Eleventh Conference, taking fully into account the views expressed by representatives to the Council at its first regular session of 1987.

2. Accordingly, the Twelfth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific was convened from 20 to 28 February 1991 in Bangkok, Thailand. At the opening session, the following agenda was adopted:

1. Organizational matters:

   (a) Adoption of the agenda;

   (b) Election of officers other than the President;

   (c) Organization of work;

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* E/1991/30.

(d) Credentials of representatives to the Conference;

(e) Establishment of technical committee.

2. Country reports on the progress made since the Eleventh Conference.

3. Cartographic data acquisition and supporting activities:

(a) Conventional and satellite geodesy;

(b) Acquisition of cartographic data from airborne and space platforms;

(c) Surveys for mapping and charting;

(d) Hydrographic surveying and nautical charting.

4. Cartographic data recording, compilation and manipulation:

(a) Large-scale topographic mapping;

(b) Small-scale topographic mapping;

(c) Cadastral mapping;

(d) Navigational and bathymetric charting;

(e) Thematic mapping;

(f) Special mapping (including mapping for the handicapped and the International Map of the World on the Millionth Scale).

5. Cartographic data retrieval, analysis, depiction, presentation and product generation:

(a) Map and chart reproduction, publishing and printing;

(b) Digital databases;

(c) Land information systems;

(d) Geographical information systems;

(e) Specifications and standards.

6. Management of national mapping and charting programmes:

(a) Education and training;

(b) National programmes;

(c) Sales and distribution of maps, charts and digital products;

(d) Geographical names.

7. Technical assistance and transfer of technology.

8. Provisional agenda for the Thirteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific.

9. Adoption of the report of the Conference.

3. Committee I, chaired by Indonesia, dealt with cartographic data acquisition and supporting activities including satellite geodesy and cartographic data acquisition by aircraft and space platforms.

4. Committee II, chaired by the Philippines, had on its agenda cartographic data recording, compilation and manipulation for topographic, cadastral, bathymetric and thematic mapping.

5. In view of the fast computerized production of maps and map-related products, Committee III, chaired by Australia, addressed information systems and reproduction systems for product generation. The same Committee also included on its agenda digital databases and advanced databases for Land Information Systems (LIS) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

6. Committee IV, chaired by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, discussed national programmes and technical cooperation activities.

7. The Conference recognized the importance of the regional conferences as a focal point for regional cooperation and possible transfer of technology and know-how. Accordingly, the agenda of the previous conferences were reviewed in the light of needs and requirements for the regions and a proposal for the agenda of the future conference was submitted to the plenary meeting.

8. Following substantial discussions stressing that the theme for future conferences should be forward-looking rather than report on past accomplishments and in view of the impact of new technologies and their relationship to policy, economy and development in the surveying, charting and mapping fields, the Conference recommended that the provisional agenda for the Thirteenth Conference should be grouped under the following headings:

1. Current state and issues of surveying, charting and mapping on the national level: needs and requirements vs. reality in the region;

2. New trends in technology and their application;

3. Human resources development;

4. Regional cooperation and technology transfer.

9. In addition, the provisional agenda will include items dealing with the organization of the Conference and with country reports.

10. The Conference, recognizing the increasing rapid developments in technology, recommended that:

(a) The cartographic Conferences be held at three-year intervals, as was practised from the First to the Ninth Conference, instead of the four-year intervals adopted since the Tenth Conference; accordingly, that the Thirteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific be held in early 1994, bearing in mind that the next International Congress of the International Federation of Surveyors was scheduled to be held in March 1994 in Australia;

(b) A technical meeting be held prior to the Thirteenth Conference. In this regard New Zealand offered, subject to final approval by the Government of New Zealand, to host the venue for the meeting on a date to be announced for 1993 and suggested that the United Nations Secretariat be approached to secure financial assistance for the meeting.

11. In addition to the technical presentations and deliberations on the agenda items 33 draft resolutions were considered by the Conference and subsequently adopted.